

THE RULES FOR BEING HUMAN

1. YOU WILL RECEIVE A BODY

You may like it or hate it, but it will be yours for the entire period this time around. The choice is yours.

2. YOU WILL LEARN LESSONS

You are enrolled in a full-time informal school called *Life*. Each day in this school you will have the opportunity to learn lessons. You may like the lessons or think them irrelevant and hence choose to ignore them; no matter, keep reading.

3. A LESSON IS REPEATED UNTIL LEARNED

A lesson will be presented to you in various forms until you have learned it. When you have learned it, you can then go on to the next lesson.

4. THERE ARE NO MISTAKES, ONLY LESSONS

Growth is a process of trial and error; experimentation. The "failed" experiments are as much a part of the process as the experiment that ultimately "works".

5. LEARNING LESSONS DOES NOT END

There is no part of life that does not contain its lessons. If you are alive, there are lessons to be learned.

6. "THERE" IS NO BETTER THAN "HERE"

When your "there" has become a "here", you will simply obtain another "there" that will, again, look better than "here".

7. OTHERS ARE MERELY MIRRORS OF YOU

You cannot love or hate something about another person unless it reflects to you something you love or hate about yourself.

8. YOUR ANSWERS LIE ONLY INSIDE YOU

The answers to life's questions lie only inside you. All you need do is look, listen, and trust.

9. YOU WILL REMEMBER ALL THIS! AND LEARN!!!

We read the papers and hear on the air,
of killing and stealing and crime everywhere.
We sigh and say as we notice the trend,
"This young generation, where will it end?"
But can we be sure that it's their fault alone,
That maybe a part of it, isn't our own?

Are we less guilty, who place in their way
Too many things that lead them astray:
Too much money, too much idle time,
Too many movies of passion and crime,
Too many books not fit to be read,
Too much evil in what they hear said,
Too many children encouraged to roam,
Too many parents who won't stay home?

Kids don't make the movies, they don't write the books,
They don't paint gay pictures of gangsters and crooks,

They don't make the liquor, they don't run the bars,
They don't make the law and they don't sell the cars,
They don't peddle the drugs that addle the brain,
That's all done by older folks greedy for gain.

Delinquent teenagers, Oh how we condemn
The sins of the nation and blame it on them.
By the laws of the blameless the Savior made know,
Who is there among us to cast the first stone?
For in so many cases (it's sad but it's true),
The title "delinquent" fits older folks too.

Margaret Hogan

Handout:

REVOLTING DEVELOPMENT

From raking leaves to mowing the lawn.
To setting the dinner table;
Most children like to be helpful
Til they're old enough to be able.

BIRTHDAY PARTY

The hostess' mother is overworked
The hostess is cross and sleepy
She missed her nap and so did her guests
And they're all inclined to be weepy
Half of the kids are too young for the games
And the other half are too old
and one little boy won't give his gift
No matter how often he's told
And though every child wants a frosting rose
The hostess herself wants them all
so the cake's finally cut mid sniffles and woes
What a Happy Birthday bawl!

A DICTIONARY OF FOODS

MEAT:	Just two kinds are eaten, from toddlers to teenagers; One is hamburger, the other is wieners.
POTATOES:	The star of the platter, they're known far and wide All children love them as long as they're French Fried.
VEGETABLES:	To do you a favor, a youngster may take A spoonful of these, if you bribe him with cake.
MILK;	A bland tasting liquid to wash down the food. the kids swallow whole, untasted, unchewed.

EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The children cleaned out their toy box today,
But they wouldn't throw one single old toy away.
Still the project was rescued from utter defeat -
They returned what belonged to the kids down the street.
An improvement I'd view with great relief.
Except I'm afraid that it's doomed to be brief -

Tomorrow the other kid's mothers will fuss,
And make them bring back what was borrowed from us!

THE MUD PACK

No matter how much I scrub and comb
No matter what high hopes I start the day with
My kids always look like the kind of kids
I wouldn't want my kids to play with.

GREEN THUMB MOTHERS

Certain plants will only grow
In certain kinds of ground;
But children seem to thrive
In whatever dirt's around.

REVELATIONS

No family hides its secrets well,
Whose children shine at show and tell?

ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN

The clock got knocked off the mantle; The screen got torn in the door.
The china's chipped, the mirror's cracked; And the tile is loose on the floor.
A ball came through the window in this morning's baseball game.
If my kids come from a broken home; They have only themselves to blame

TWO BRIEF MOMENTS

We've reached that tranquil period
When we can breathe with ease.
Our daughter is midway between
Diapers and dungarees.
Our son has also reached that plain
Toward which all parents strive,
Old enough to wash his neck,
But still too young to drive.